

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 (301) 656-4068

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Good Morning America STATION WJLA-TV
ABC Network

DATE March 5, 1985 7:10 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Interview with Kenneth L. Adelman

DAVID HARTMAN: Since the first atomic bomb was exploded four decades ago, the number of nuclear weapons has grown to the tens of thousands.

Along with that number has grown the fear that someone either accidentally or deliberately will touch off a nuclear war and blow up the globe and everybody on it.

Well, the United States and the Soviet Union, in their arms control talks that broke off more than a year ago, are going to resume next week in Geneva, Switzerland, and they'll focus not only on limiting the number of nuclear weapons but also on President Reagan's SDI, Strategic Defense Initiative, the so-called "Star Wars" proposal. It is a non-nuclear potential -- a non-nuclear defense system in space that would warn us of incoming missiles and perhaps destroy them. This is only in the early research stage right now.

Kenneth Adelman heads the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and he joins us this morning from Washington.

Good morning, Mr. Adelman. Welcome back.

KENNETH L. ADELMAN: Thank you, David.

HARTMAN: President Reagan is speaking out right now. It seems loudly and clearly and often. He -- he's talking about Soviet tyranny, that Moscow -- and I'm quoting him -- "is on the moral defensive."

Secretary of State Shultz has said that "Star Wars" is non-negotiable. How is all this rhetoric -- how is all this sabre-rattling talk useful where the talks are concerned?

ADELMAN: Well, it's useful, David, because it clarifies the basic differences in values between the United States and the Soviet Union. I don't think that anybody in the arms control business should really blur the distinctions between free societies and totalitarian societies.

HARTMAN: But the Soviets -- I mean, you -- our people and the Soviet people and negotiators, we assume, already know these things on both sides. How useful is it to whip up a frenzy in the public just before you sit down at the table?

ADELMAN: Well, I don't think there's any effort to whip up the frenzy in the public. What the effort is is to draw the distinction between open societies and closed societies. This is not to say that we cannot find areas of agreement or overlapping interests, and we're trying to do that in the arms control business.

HARTMAN: Now, on that point, obviously, if there's going to be any kind of agreements, or agreement, then there has to be compromise on both sides. What areas are there? What kinds of things are the areas [sic] -- where are the areas of compromise? Is it missiles? Is it "Star Wars?" Is it ground troops? Is it small missiles, big missiles, bombs? Where are the areas of possible compromise?

ADELMAN: Well, David, we were meeting with the President yesterday in the White House to discuss that very subject, to see where these arms talks could lead and where there could be areas of compromise.

Obviously, the President in the past has talked about trade-offs, areas where the Soviets are ahead as opposed to areas where we might be ahead. That's very difficult because the Soviet's strategic buildup over the years have given the Soviets very serious advantages in many realms. But, we're looking at that specifically. We'll have interesting ideas to propose to the Soviets.

HARTMAN: Now, on that score, the United States in the last four years has had a bigger defense buildup than we have in decades, and now with the addition of the, quote, "Star Wars," unquote, business, this whole new idea in space together with the massive buildup, why should the Soviets believe for a moment that we're serious about getting rid of weapons when we've spent four years building, building, building?

ADELMAN: Well, we're not through with that strategic modernization program yet, David. The MX is an important component of showing that the United States is serious about keeping the strategic balance and keeping deterrence very strong, and I think the President is absolutely right when he says that should we -- the Congress cancel a weapons program that four presidents have thought as essential to the national security interests of the United States, the Soviet Union is going to look at this not as a sign of goodwill, but as a sign of a lack of will.

HARTMAN: Georgi Abartov, Soviet spokesman, has been quoted as saying, "If you start to build 'Star Wars,' we'll be obliged to build new weapons systems, new weapons and more of them which can penetrate your defensive shield," unquote. What's your reaction to that?

ADELMAN: My reaction is that I remember a year ago, or two years ago sitting in this very studio talking to you, David, about another quote that the Soviet Union had at that time that if we went ahead and deployed missiles some catastrophe was going to happen.

I think that we cannot submit to Soviet blandishments and Soviet rhetoric of that kind year after year after year. It's a standard Soviet ploy to divide us from the allies, and it's a standard Soviet ploy to have us stop our weapons programs so that they can gain military superiority, and I don't think that we should put up with that.

HARTMAN: The Belgians are saying at the moment, "No Cruise missiles." New Zealand is saying, "No nuclear ships." The Australians are telling us, "No, you can't monitor your MX missile testing from our soil." How concerned are you? How concerned is the Administration that we're seeing some -- something of an unraveling of the allied stance in all of this?

ADELMAN: Oh, among democratic countries, David, there's always these shifts, and there's always the marginal kind of adjustments year by year. I think, generally speaking, that our alliances are strong. Generally speaking, when people -- free people in democratic societies have to choose a government they choose a government that is strongly pro-NATO and pro-continued deterrence posture, and I am not convinced myself that the Dutch are not going to deploy. In fact, I expect the Dutch to deploy on schedule, and I think that the alliance is strong and should the United States with its Congress continue to support the President on the programs I think that we can achieve success.

HARTMAN: Mr. Adelman, thank you.

ADELMAN: O.k.

HARTMAN: Good luck.

ADELMAN: Thanks.